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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06853 221958Z

67
ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 FEA-01 /110 W
---------- 025564
R 221718Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9824

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: RPLOS, CO
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON LOS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS

1. ON THEOCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE 1975 SESSION OF CONGRESS ON JULY 20, PRESIDENT LOPEZ DELIVERED A SPEECH TO THE SENATE WHICH INCLUDED COMMENTS ON THE LOSAND COLOMBIA'S TERRITORIAL WATERS.
2. LOPEZ SPOKE FAVORABLY ALTHOUGH WITH SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE THIRD LOS CONFERENCE, STATING, "EVEN THOUGH UNDENIABLE PROGRESS WAS MADE ON SOME IMPORTANT SUBJECTS, IT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED TOTALLY SATISFACTORY IN TERMS OF RESULTS".
3. ON COLOMBIA'S OWN TERRITORIAL WATERS, THE PRESIDENT SAID, "WHILE A LAW OF THE SEA IS BEING WORKED OUT WITH DIFFICULTY AND AMID THE SKEPTICISM OF THE SMALL COUNTRIES, COLOMBIA HAS CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY

TO BECOME CONSCIOUS OF OUR RIGHTS ON LOS MATTERS...IN TIMES PAST SOME OF OUR NEIGHBORS HAVE MOVED FORWARD TO EXTEND THEIR TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 200 MILES WITHOUT PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS
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CONCERNING PROBLEMS OF SUPERPOSITION WHICH COULD ARISE. AS TIME GOES

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BY AND AS THE BELIEF IN THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ARRIVING AT AN
AGREEMENT IN THIS AREA IN THE LOS CONFERENCE SPREADS, IT IS
NECESSARY TO ADOPT POSITIONS BEFORE STEPS (OF OTHERS) ARE
TAKEN WHICH LATER COULD BECOME RIGHTS. COLOMBIA CANNOT FOREGO
INDEFINITELY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POSITION IN RELATION TO THE
EXTENSION OF HER TERRITORIAL WATERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE PACIFIC"...
LOPEZ COMPLETED THE TOPC BY EMPHASIZING THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS
WHICH COULD ACCRUE TO COLOMBIA BY CONCENTRATING ON THE RESOURCES
OFF HER SHORES.
4. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE A REFERENCE TO A PROPOSAL UNDER
STUDY TO EXTEND COLOMBIA'S JURISDICTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
RESOURCES (BOGOTA 6770). IT IS CLEAR THA COLOMBIA IS BEGINNING
TO FOCUS ON THE QUESTION OF HER RIGHTS TO WATERS OFF HER SHORES.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, LAW OF THE SEA, TERRITORIAL WATERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA06853
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750253-0392
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750731/aaaabblj.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON LOS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS
TAGS: PLOS, CO, (LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ALFONSO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006